

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Shimmyayssin' since 1911

Wednesday, November 25th, 1992

Montréal Streets get the walk-around Tandem project criticized by safety advocates

BY LIZA COOPERMAN

Activists concerned with violence against women are critical of a city of Montréal project aimed at addressing safety on Montréal streets.

The city proposes a series of "neighbourhood walk-arounds" in which city officials and women will pinpoint any hazardous locations. The information will be used to plan for better lighting in the dangerous areas of Montréal.

The project will be overseen by Tandem Montréal, a city-run coalition of community groups, formed to address the problem of sexual aggression.

According to Tandem coordinator Charles Couture, cooperation between the city and community

groups is necessary to deal with the ever-increasing problem of violence in the city.

"We don't pretend to have the answers," says Couture. "Tandem provides short-term solutions for a long-term problem."

But several organizations concerned with street violence against women are critical of Tandem's latest project.

"Everything towards bettering safety is productive," said Walk Safe Coordinator Fiona Deller. "Yet until a list of constructive ideas appears, I'm a little skeptical. The idea is a good one, yet the process is a little lame."

In 1991 alone, there were 1464 reports of sexual assault in Montréal and countless incidents that went unreported. Up to now the city has done little to address this situation.

"The city is in a state of emergency," said Deller. "It's unfortunate that it takes this for the city to react."

Deller said a major reason for the city to be acting now is that the issue of violence against women has recently had a high profile in the media. She said she would be interested to see what will happen when the media coverage of the issue dies down.

Dot Wojakowski, coordinator of the McGill Sexual Assault Centre, also has misgivings about Tandem's latest plan.

"The Walk-around project seems pointless. It will only affirm what everyone already knows," she said. "That Montréal is a dangerous place."

Tandem's program will begin in the Plateau Mont-Royal area, where

many women's groups have been lobbying for action. But this means the McGill ghetto will for the time being be excluded, despite the large number of recent assaults in the area.

Both Deller and Wojakowski believe that the Ghetto has been virtually ignored, and that Walk Safe is not enough to ensure women's safety in the area.

But Deller said programs such as the one initiated by Tandem are a step in the right direction.

"It's important that as many people as possible join the fight against sexual assault. Anyone can do it," she said.

Wojakowski also believes that the more information that is made ac-

cessible, the better the chances we have of combating the problem.

"The police are simply not responding to the needs of the community," she said.



Communiqué Elles

Right Wing Faction Blocks Progressive Policy for Students Tuition increase opposed at conference of Canadian Federation of Students

BY DAVE LEY

Right-wing elements of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) managed to block a number of progressive policy proposals at a CFS conference last weekend.

But members of CFS voted down a right-wing plan to increase tuition while changing the procedure for paying back student loans.

The progressive policies were supported by a simple majority but failed to obtain a required two-thirds support.

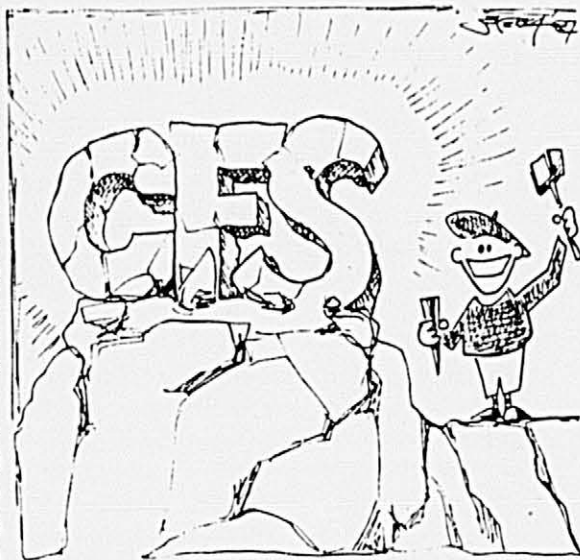
The three policies involved supporting in principle a woman's right to choose in cases of abortion, giving a position on the national executive to CFS's women's commissioners, and giving a 25 per cent discount on conference delegate fees for certain minority groups such as students of colour, students with disabilities, and gay and lesbian students. "It was a number of fairly well-organized schools to the right that managed to block many of the policies," said Charlene Nero, president of the Concordia University Students' Association.

"The atmosphere of the room did not make me feel safe. The level of noise and disrespectful comments that grew every time a woman or a lesbian or gay stood up to speak was unnerving," she said.

McGill post-graduate students'

association president Tamara Myers said the votes reflected the views of a number of student councils.

"Many of the delegates were told by their councils not to vote in favour of 'non-educational' issues," said Myers, "though a number of delegates were anti-abortion."



She added that the tension at the conference was fairly normal for CFS.

"It wasn't the worst meeting I've been to, though people were quite tense," said Myers. "It's always an ugly pull between conservative students that only want to look at student issues and more progressive students who want to change the world."

Eugenio Bolongaro, vp external for the McGill graduate students' association said that the reason student associations voting against the motion for the enstatement of the women's commissioner on the executive was that they felt that this would ghettoize women.

"I think this argument is bogus,

and I don't understand the logic of it," said Bolongaro.

Now, only 4 of CFS's 12 executives are women, he said.

Bolongaro said the motion to give a 25 per cent discount on conference delegate fees was supported by just under the needed two-thirds.

He said CFS already gave the discount and executives could continue the practice, although it wouldn't be an official policy of CFS.

"It's very disparaging because the fact of the matter is that minorities are vastly underrepresented in CFS," said Bolongaro.

The delegates also sent a strong message to the federal and Ontario governments by opposing a proposed income contingency loan repayment plan.

The plan, proposed by ten university student associations, called for a 30 per cent increase in tuition and a reformed student aid program in which loans would be repaid as a fixed percentage of future income after graduation.

Carleton University Students' Association president Shawn Rapley said that considering only 10 out of 52 universities supported the plan, CFS's position is important to show that the majority of students oppose the plan.

"That's a strong message to the federal and provincial governments, especially in Ontario with the five schools that have proposed income contingent loan repayment," said Rapley.

Also at the CFS conference, Michael Temelini, vp university affairs for McGill's post-graduate students' association, was elected

as vice-chair on the executive of the National Graduate Council.

Delegates elected a new executive for the student federation, including Carleton University stu-

dent Carl Gillis as the new chairperson of the CFS. The new executive will take over in May.

— Additional reporting by Eric Tamm (CUP)

Neo-nazi posters appear on campus

BY FIONA MCCAW

Neo-nazi posters appeared in the McLennan-Redpath library and at other locations around campus last week.

Entitled "Poison gas over Canada", the posters depict a man with a large hooked nose spraying from a bottle labelled "poison gas".

In the clouds of gas surrounding this figure are words such as: "cocaine", "jew music industry", "jew TV", "jew films", and "immigration."

An arm with a swastika is choking the figure. Underneath the picture is the caption, "Just wait, fellow, we'll put a stop to your dirty tricks."

Students attending a meeting of an unofficial coalition of campus anti-racism groups expressed their disgust at these posters, and called for action on the part of the student body and the university administration.

"This is the second time in the past month that off-campus organizations have distributed racist material on the campus grounds," said Jonathan Shime, referring to an earlier incident in which some-

one distributed the white-supremacist newspaper *The Phoenix Liberator* in the McLennan-Redpath library. "That goes against university policy."

"I would hope the university would come up with a comment on it and take preventative measures to make sure it doesn't happen again," said Shime, a member of the Anti-Racism Working Group.

"It's important we make the connections — these are not 'isolated incidents'," said Black Students' Network member Adrian Harewood.

"Though this time the Jews were targeted, it's important we come together on this. I think it's time we took a proactive role and stop merely reacting to these incidents," he said.

Harewood added that the McGill administration had a share of blame in the incident, through its apathy regarding issues of student safety and welfare.

"McGill's almost negation of responsibility — even for something like Walk Safe, which they refuse to fund — demonstrates their culpability," said Harewood.

"They should be taking a leadership role, but they've abdicated their responsibility," he said.

City Briefs

City accused of bio-gas explosion cover-up

Auf der Maur suggests legalizing sex trade

BY DAMION STODOLA

Opposition councillors attacked the ruling city droogs at last Monday's meeting for mismanagement of the bio-gas accumulation program at the Miron dump.

Democratic Coalition councillor for Snowdon Marvin Rotrand asked the city to explain a series of explosions that occurred at the Miron bio-gas accumulation station.

Rotrand accused the city of covering up the explosions to avoid public scrutiny of the bio-gas capturing station.

"The station is very inefficient and badly run," said Rotrand. "The ruling MCM party is refusing to deal with some serious problems at the station."

Rotrand said the explosions occurred because of an accumulation of bio-gas caused by the inefficiency of the gas-capturing equipment at the dump.

Richard Brunelle, a member of the five-member city executive, said Rotrand was trying to incite fear. "He is unnecessarily trying to scare residents and attract media attention," said Brunelle.

"These accusations are pure fantasy," said Brunelle. "There have not been any explosions nor is there any proof (that there have been)."

Brunelle said city technicians at the site conducted tests on the capturing machines and found them to be working efficiently.

Nick strikes again

On a more sober note, Civic Party leader Nick Auf der Maur, acting as if he had spent too much time at Grumpy's, said the city is neglecting its social responsibilities.

"The city's efforts to fight AIDS are pitiful," said Auf der Maur, trying hard not to fall down.

Auf der Maur, characteristically off-balance, seemed abnormally concerned about people who don't hang out at Grumpy's.



Nick Auf der Maur

"We should do as they do in Europe," said Auf der Maur, advocating legalization of the sex trade.

Auf der Maur recommended the escort industry be regulated, which would help prevent the spread of disease.

André Lavallée, member of the executive, dismissed the recommendation and said Auf der Maur was grossly misinformed.

"The city has taken its responsibilities very seriously," said Lavallée. "We have dedicated resources toward informing the public as well as setting up services within the community."

Lavallée maintained the city is doing its utmost to fight AIDS as well as other STDs.

Doré anti-gay

Douglas Buckley-Couvrette, a former candidate for the St-Jacques riding, accused Mayor Jean Doré of being insensitive about the gay and lesbian community.

Citing recent police raids at saunas, Buckley-Couvrette said the present situation is unacceptable.

"When will your administration stop being so biased against our community," asked Buckley-Couvrette.

Doré said Buckley-Couvrette's impressions were wrong.

"We have initiated very good relations with the gay and lesbian community," said Doré.

Deeper in debt

Pierre Gagnier, Civic Party representative for Cartierville, asked Doré about the city's debt, which has been growing since Doré took power in 1986.

Gagnier said the debt of the paramunicipal industrial development agency SODIM exceeds the value of its assets, effectively making it bankrupt.

Doré said the situation is due to the effects of the recession on the real estate market.

He also said it was inappropriate for the Civic Party to ask questions about debt given the performance of former Civic Party mayor Jean Drapeau.

"It's funny how you question us on the debt when your party got us into the mess we're in," said Doré.

events

"Out on Video." The McGill School of Social Work host a video presentation and discussion on homophobia and heterosexism. 13h-14h, Wilson Hall, Wendy Patrick Room.

Prof. Natalie Zemon Davis, from Princeton University, speaks on "Unsettling the Colonial Encounter: Marie de l'Incarnation Between 'Savage' and 'Polite.'" 18h, FDA auditorium.

"Entertainment? Or an education in violence?" a speech on the effects of violence in the media. 19h, Concordia Hall Building, room H-110. Info: 848-7585.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee presents Soraida Hussein, a student from a university in the occupied territories. Hussein will speak on Palestinians and the peace process. 16h30 in Otto Maass 112.

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City says "no" to Benny Farm demolition

Fate of veterans' and seniors' housing complex remains uncertain

BY SUSAN VIVIAN

Residents of the Benny Farm seniors' and veterans' housing project still don't know what will happen to their homes.

Benny Farm is a residential project located in NDG. It is owned and operated by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), a federal government agency.

The CMHC wants to tear down all the buildings on the Benny Farm site and replace them with new ones suitable for people with disabilities. It also wants to triple the population density.

But the City of Montréal decided Monday to refuse the CMHC proposal, on grounds that a total demolition was unacceptable.

Guy Bossé, the Benny Farm project manager for the CMHC, said he was surprised and disappointed by the City's decision.

"I expected the city to approve our proposal because I think it was quite good," said Bossé.

Bossé said it would take some time before the CMHC would decide what to do next.

"Benny Farm is an important project to the CMHC," he said. "What we need to do now is discover what it is the city really wants."

The future of Benny Farm was called into question last year when federal spending cuts required that the CMHC dispose of subsidized housing properties.

The housing units at the Benny Farm site consist of two and three-storey apartments. Built in the 1950s, the buildings have narrow hallways, unmodified bathrooms, no elevators, and only first floor apartments are accessible to those

using wheelchairs.

Veterans living at the site were promised new housing by the CMHC to meet the demands of an aging and increasingly disabled population. They are now afraid their housing needs will never be met.

John McKay, a Benny Farm resident and veteran, said he was disgusted with the City's decision.

"We've been at this for 18 months now and nothing has been done," he said. "We are sick, ailing and suffering more with every day that goes by. Something has to be done."

"I'm turning 75 in July, I am 80 per cent disabled, and I'm stuck living on a third floor."

Rosemary Bradley, also a veteran and resident, agreed with McKay.

"I am very disappointed," she said. "We have done our very best to come up with a viable proposal and no one seems to care."

Demolition refusal

But Michael Poddubiuk, an architect working with the NDG Community Council Housing Committee on Benny Farm, disagrees.

"I am greatly relieved that the CMHC proposal was rejected," he said. "The decision from the city was even more strong than expected."

"It made it clear that the CMHC needs to find a renovation strategy consistent with the current site plan regarding density and housing type," he said.

Benny Farm is considered a valuable housing site for its low population density and large amount of preserved green space.



City refuses plan to tear down these buildings.

The CMHC proposal, which suggested tripling population density by having private interests build high rise apartments on the site, concerned many NDG residents.

But Poddubiuk was also concerned about what will happen next.

"The veterans still have a great need for improved housing, and rumours from Ottawa about even more funding cuts worry me that CMHC may back down on their commitment," Poddubiuk said.

"We are trying to come up with other alternatives which will meet both the City and CMHC requirements at a reasonable cost," he said.

Poddubiuk is also worried because the City's decision made no mention of privatization, which he

said is still an issue, principally with the federal government.

But because the veterans had already been promised new units, the CMHC saw selling some of the property to private interests as a way of offsetting construction costs. In doing so, it hoped to minimize the amount taxpayers would be required to contribute.

"The demolition refusal does create a situation where privatization becomes very difficult for the CMHC to do," he said.

Poddubiuk has been working with the NDG Housing Committee on creating a strategy to deal with the site. They hope to propose a community land trust that would be affiliated with a non-profit com-

munity corporation.

"The really important issue is maintaining pressure on the CMHC so that it can't abandon the issue that the veterans need new housing," said Poddubiuk.

"The treasury board seems to want to, but the veterans can't let the federal government back out of their commitment to them," he said.

McKay agreed. "We want our community to be maintained," he said. "Something has to be done."

"This development will not reach into the taxpayers pocket," he said. "I trust the statement by the CMHC that they will sell some of the property to offset the costs of building."

Ontario teachers oppose eliminating Grade 13

BY ARIF NOORANI

Toronto (CUP) — Ontario students won't be adequately prepared for university if high school programs are shortened to four years, according to some Ontario secondary school teachers.

Earlier this month, Ontario Liberal education critic Charles Beer leaked a summary of a document which he says outlines the NDP education agenda for the next two years. According to Beer, the complete elimination of the extra year is part of Education Minister Tony Silipo's proposal to be introduced by the end of the year.

According to Bob Garthson, vice-president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), eliminating the fifth year of high school will have a "serious impact on many students who want to continue with further education."

A statement from the OSSTF says the additional year gives students the time to decide on post-secondary education, and saves them a year of tuition, since degree programmes in Ontario can be

completed in three years. In most other provinces, four years are required to complete a bachelor's degree.

The OSSTF also points to Ontario's large immigrant population, saying that high school students learning English as a second language may require more time to graduate.

Beer says he is concerned about the effects removing the fifth year of high school will have on the quality of education in high school. He says if the government removes the fifth year, it has to spend money restructuring the education system to compensate for the loss.

"If they simply lop off the fifth year, it will lower the quality of education. You have to change the whole program. You have to be sure it is academically sound, not just saving money," says Beer.

But the provincial Tories, who first abolished grade 13 in 1985, support the move from a five-year to a four-year high school system because they say it would save \$350 million and lead to "efficiency in the classroom."

Kathryne Hunt, an education policy analyst for the Conservatives, says many students are already completing high school in four years, so the changes wouldn't be that big.

Garthson says the OSSTF isn't only upset about this one change. They feel that there should have been public consultation about any proposed revamping of the education system.

"Most parents know very little about the proposed changes," he says.

Garthson said he asked the ministry to release a white paper on the issue. But Education Ministry representative Maureen O'Hara says there are no plans for a public consultation or a discussion paper.

Both Hunt and Garthson feel that any changes made should be done gradually, not as quickly as the provincial government is reportedly planning.

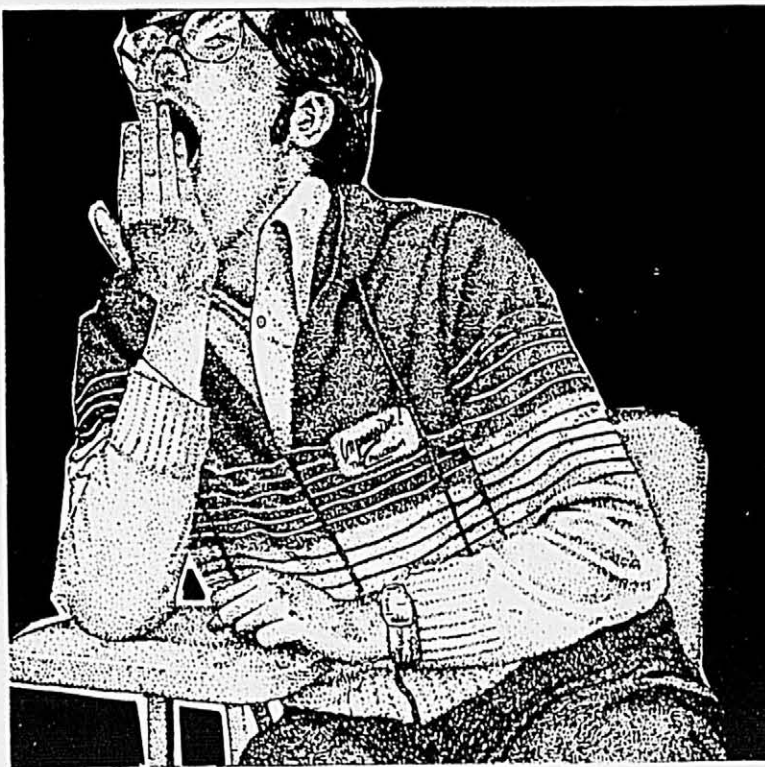
"These changes are coming in a recessionary period, where teachers are overworked and the government hasn't committed itself to providing enough money for

their implementation," says Garthson.

So far, Garthson says the provincial government has said it will give \$1.3 million to the teacher's federation and \$2.75 million to the school boards. This is not enough

for training teachers if a new system is implemented, he says, citing \$270 million as a beginning point for funding the restructuring.

Ontario is the only province in Canada with more than four years of high school.



THE MCGILL DAILY

comment

Student federations lack logic

Recent moves by both the Fédération Etudiante Collégiale du Québec (FECQ), a federation of Québec Cégep student associations, and some members of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), suggest that many of our student politicians/bureaucrats lack a grasp of basic logic.

The new breed of student politicians/bureaucrats claim to be "non-political". They say their mandate is to address concerns directly relevant to students, and not broad political issues. Much as we disagree with these people, we can understand that student associations shouldn't waste too much time on issues that aren't very relevant to students.

Many students face the possibility of unwanted pregnancy, either as something which could happen to them, or as something which could happen to their partners, friends, and loved ones. Accessibility to abortion is therefore a necessity.

Without the freedom to choose to have an abortion, many women are forced to spend money they would have spent on tuition on travel and medical expenses to secure an abortion. The alternative is to continue the pregnancy, facing the hardships of having to support a child and pay for school at the same time.

Accessibility to abortion therefore directly affects the accessibility of education, and the lives of students. Therefore, simple logic dictates that our student politicians/bureaucrats, concerned as they are with issues relevant to the lives of students, should promote freedom of choice on abortion for all students.

But at a recent conference of the CFS, a small group of right-wing schools managed to block a policy proposal that needed a two-thirds majority to support the freedom of choice. They claimed that the policy was too "political", and not relevant to students.

The policy of FECQ is even more bizarre. FECQ is the Cégep counterpart to le Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), the right-wing student federation that McGill undergraduate students voted to drop last spring.

FECQ proposed that the government gut the health care system and instead put the money towards the increasing costs of education.

That's not non-political, that's downright right-wing.

Not only is the proposal incredibly stupid (free education at the Cégep level is great, but it's sort of cancelled out if you have to pay for your health care as well), but it's also extremely sexist.

Because women are discriminated against in employment and employment benefits, and have longer life expectancy, they are more dependent on the health care system than men. Therefore women will suffer greatly as a result of FECQ's mind-boggling absurdity. (Needless to say both FECQ's president and vice-president are men.)

By promoting a sexist and elitist platform, FECQ is (a) being a gang of fartcatchers (b) ignoring about half their constituents (c) being a bunch of silly little FECQers.

But then our student 'leaders' have never been much for simple logic.

Dave Ley
Susan Vivian

letters

Get help!

To the Daily:

Response to the Pan and Glass hysteries in the Daily, November 23.

As a McGill colleague, I am embarrassed by the gross mistakes you made in your most recent "letter", those wisely corrected by the editor. I hope your research is not as error-prone. Next time you accept invitations to our meetings, let us get a word in edge-wise

at yours, and avoid speed-reading information you are given.

"CSN power grab?" "Forced bondage of students?" Have you totally lost your sense of reality? We (AGSEM) invited the CSN to be interviewed along with all the other potential affiliates. AGSEM chose the CSN because:

- 1) education is a provincial jurisdiction
- 2) Québec has its own labour code

3) the CSN is most representative of anglo- and allophone workers in the province

4) all national labour organizations (except the Teamsters) have voted in favour of self-determination for Québec

5) CSN's organizing expertise and resources were free and essential

6) we will be entirely autonomous from CSN — what we do we decide

7) we will be in the Federation of Québec Teachers, therefore joining Concordia, U de M, and UQAM part-time faculty, and will constitute 1100 of its 9000 members therefore giving us a significant say in education

8) over a dozen Canadian TA unions are similarly affiliated

9) AGSEM concluded that organizing an independent union would be naive and doomed to fail.

To put it into baby words even you can understand, there is no external plot to recruit McGill students into a communist conspiracy. We are a TA/DEM association run by TA/DEMs free of "outside political interference" and "forced bondage". The 1950s red scare is a thing of the past. Paranoia is no longer politically correct but rather a serious medical problem. Get help!

Jean Pierre Bourdeau
PhD 3 Sociology

Ballooning for boys

To the Daily:

I am happy to learn from Jason Pan and Frank Glass's letter (Daily, November 23) that they have finally come out in support of "a responsive student-oriented association...to resolve TA grievances"!!!

If only they had expressed their sympathies a little earlier for TAs organizing, they could have participated in the years of hard work that has led to the referendum taking place now to

vote in favour of AGSEM (Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill)!

In fact, the Boys from Earth and Planetary Science could have actively engaged in the entire process whereby teaching assistants organized THEMSELVES. They could have constructively contributed to the various committees that were put in place several years ago by the TA Organizing Committee (TAOC) of the PGSS.

They could themselves have taken part in deciding whether or not McGill TAs should affiliate with a union, and if so which one.

So wherever you, Boys from Rocks and Stars, when the sweatwork was being done? And don't plead ignorance! If you attended any PGSS meetings or read any of its newsletters over the past several years, you would have known that the TAOC existed!

So don't give me this melodramatic outrage about the CSN supposedly trying to take over the McGill campus! Your conspiracy theory just doesn't wash! Get it straight, guys: AGSEM was formed by TAs at McGill and is completely student-propelled. So why don't you just take your hot air and go for a balloon-ride around your Earth and Planets?

Or is ballooning for boys not a macho enough sport for ignorant bullies like you?

Gleema Nambiar
PhD, Sociology

More than token

To the Daily:

I read with interest the article in the Nov. 19th Daily on the boycotting of the white ribbon campaign. The author predicted that the movement would "shock and offend many men", but I

guess my initial reaction was confusion.

Should I wear a white ribbon again this year? Well no, because this would ostensibly detract from the campaign's significance. Men, as the argument goes, are only wearing these ribbons in an attempt to "draw attention back to themselves" in pretending to express solidarity.

But to not wear a ribbon doesn't seem to be an option either, because this gives the message that I don't care, which isn't true. What happened at the University of Montréal on December 6, 1989 is both repugnant and frightening to me.

I wonder what Susan Cole and Libby Zeleke would make of the complacent suburbanites who recycle their pop cans without being real environmentalists. Should we take away their blue boxes until they've demonstrated the requisite degree of earnestness? Of course not.

Obviously, there are going to be people out there this year wearing white ribbons as a token statement. But I would have thought a token statement is better than plain indifference. And anyway, it's unfair to assume that all men are this hypocritical simply because Robert Bly's men's movement might appear a little suspect. One might go as far to say that it is this kind of mentality that lies at the root of any kind of prejudice or bigotry.

I'm going to wear a white ribbon this year. If it means I'm going to be regularly confronted and quizzed on my understanding of feminist issues, fine. But I resent being plastered with labels, based on my sex, as much as anyone.

I would avoid printing such stupid articles in the future.

Jacob Pendergrast
History and Philosophy of
Medicine, U1

All readers are welcome to submit letters under 300 words. Add your name, program, year and telephone number. Anonymity can be provided; talk to an editor beforehand. Opinions can be expressed in the form of a Hyde Park, no more than 500 words.



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People with disabilities help themselves

People with disabilities who are looking for independence face an uphill battle.

Discrimination in the workplace keeps unemployment among people with disabilities at about 70 per cent. What aid agencies there are (mostly run by able-bodied people) enforce dependency by shoving people into institutions and assuming they can't do anything for themselves — which people with disabilities say is plain untrue.

The self-help movement is an attempt by people with disabilities to reclaim control over their lives by insisting that people recognize them for what they can do and not just as a medical anomaly.

The Daily talked to Carol MacGregor, the executive director of People United for Self-Help (PUSH), an Ontario coalition of disability-rights groups. She talked about the reasons behind the self-help movement, as well as the continuing struggle to get legislative change.

by Dan Robins

How does self-help influence PUSH?

If you don't help yourself you're not going to get anywhere. We feel that people with disabilities should be the ones who are speaking about the issues, that it shouldn't be able-bodied people speaking on behalf of us. We should have the right to identify our own issues.

We're basically a lobbying organization. We lobby on issues that have been identified as a priority by our membership. At the present time, those relate to employment equity, training, transportation, housing and the Advocacy Bill. The Bill is a piece of legislation we're currently trying to push through that will enable people who are vulnerable to have advocates to intervene on their behalf.

We're doing outreach to our own community to address issues of alcohol and drug abuse. We're also developing a program on a youth advocacy network which will enable people in their teens to identify the issues which are of concern to that age group particularly.

In our mandate we've established that we do no service delivery because we believe that you have to have change at the political level. We work with our own community, teaching them — if you don't educate the consumer, then you're nowhere. Even at the local level, if buildings are inaccessible, folks at the local level can lobby the municipal people.

The only other option is to have service organizations that are sort of dictating the way things should go. In the self-help movement, we say we have the right to say, "This is not working, you should be listening to us, not to able-bodied people." People with disabilities have to represent ourselves.

What's wrong with the more standard charity organizations, such as Jerry Lewis's telethons or the Terry Fox run?

Anytime anybody says what's best for you or not best for you, that's patronizing. When people look down on you and say this is what those poor people need, and they don't consult with these poor people, then it comes down in a very patronizing manner. They don't treat us like equals, which is what we are. We only have a disability, we're not very different in any other respect.

What are the main obstacles facing people with disabilities?

Well, I think you only have to look at a federal government that's basically undermining equality rights across the board and I think there's a very big danger for us. We've lost the Court Challenges program this year, and the Omnibus legislation that went through on the federal level was very weak.

What is the Court Challenges program?

It was a program that allowed specialty clinics like ARCH, the Canadian Disability Rights Council, and Legal Education and Action Fund which make money accessible for disadvantaged people to take Charter of Rights cases to court. But the government didn't like the decisions that were coming out of the courts, so it discontinued the funding for that program which in effect left us with less access to the courts.

What was the Omnibus legislation?

Omnibus is a set of legislation dealing with immigration, transportation, voting, access to information and closed-captioning for the deaf. The only piece in that package that was strong at all was the one dealing with voting. It means that all polling in the referendum had to be accessible, and they had Braille. Other people don't realize how difficult it is to vote when you have a disability — it's basically thought you don't have that right — and the hassles and the harassment you have to endure because of it.

We were alarmed by the lack of change with respect to immigration policy because we've had families come to Canada who have had to leave children with disabilities behind. We are trying to make the immigration act reflect that people with disabilities are part of a family, that they just couldn't be excluded. We have not had very great success on that one I'm afraid. We also didn't get any changes in transportation as far as accessibility of transportation goes. So that's a big loss for us.

The access to information legislation was to provide people with low vision or blind alternate formats to be able to access government information. But we still can't do that.

What is the state of legislation in Canada? Is this the last word?

I don't know whether it's the last word. The Canadian Disability Rights Council is proceeding with legislative reform with phase two of Omnibus. Equality rights cases are the ones that concern us the most because the government are quite willing to give us money to diddle around on some legislation, amending existing legislation, but it doesn't appear they want to have any negative court cases in their face.

In Ontario we're proceeding with an Ontarians with Disabilities Act, modeled after the American one. We're also supporting the Advocacy Act. It's being debated in the house now. We've had to really push this one along. We've got the medical profession — the Unholy Alliance, we like to call them — the hospital workers, Friends of Schizophrenics, lobbying against us. I don't have to tell you the OMA has a powerful lobby.

Why are they lobbying against it?

They're afraid of what this type of bill will do to them. They lose control, they lose power. And they're afraid their power is going to be usurped. By having someone who's going to be monitoring what's happening to people, people are not going to be subject to the abuse that they were. Not that it's not going to happen — it is, but the bill should certainly improve the whole situation.

How does language affect the way able-bodied people view people with disabilities?

You often hear people with disabilities referred to in different ways, such as physically challenged, or differently abled, and it seems that people who do not have disabilities just want to put another -ism into us, anything but a disability. We're quite content to be people who have disabilities, but they try to make us into something else that's less upsetting to themselves.

Hopefully by now, the education has been done in terms of language. Everyone should know by now you don't have people who are "bound to wheelchairs". Wheelchairs offer freedom, but people don't seem to realize that. I think there's been a fair bit of public education regarding language in the last few years and we don't find it nearly so negative as we did before.

TEN STEP PROGRAMMES AND GUERRILLA ABORTIONS

Self-help groups spring up whenever a group of people with similar problems get together to solve them for themselves.

"It's basically a grassroots movement of people who've been bothered or afflicted in some way, who find information and comfort with people going through the same things," said Joanne Creagers, a health educator at Heads and Hands, a referral centre which provides medical and legal clinics and advice for young parents.

From AA 12-step programs to guerrilla abortions, self-help has people doing for themselves what official structures are unable or unwilling to do for them.

Perhaps the most common type is the support group. Montréal has several for people living with AIDS, cancer and a host of other illnesses. They are available for dealing with substance abuse.

The Montréal Women's Centre offers one (in French) for incest survivors.

"They explore different issues and emotions related to incest experience," said Elise Poudrette of the Women's Centre. "They explore the emotions in order to understand them better."

While support groups tend to avoid acting on a political level, women's health groups are engaged in taking control over women's bodies away from a male-defined medical establishment.

One of their main goals has been to keep abortion safe and accessible even when it's officially not allowed.

The most common procedure is menstrual extraction, which is safe enough to be performed by a small group of minimally-trained women.

Women's health self-help groups also provide information and resources which allow women to perform their own ob/gyn exams.

Perhaps the most extreme need for self-help is for people with disabilities. Traditionally forced into a state of near-complete dependency, their attempts to become independent of a patronizing and alienating system are necessarily predicated upon self-help.

For referrals, you can call Heads & Hands at 481-3643.

The invisible disability

Living with chronic illness

Insulin-dependent diabetes (also called Type 1) affects approximately 1 per cent of the Canadian population. According to the Canadian Diabetic Association, 12 000 new cases of Type 1 diabetes are diagnosed in Canada every year.

At 21, I never thought I would become a part of this statistic. In fact, as I was gallivanting about Edinburgh last year, on U of T's third year abroad program, the state of my health was the last thing on my mind. After all, I was pretty conscious of my diet, and I exercised on a regular basis.

However, as is the case with Type 1 diabetes, its onset was quick and within a month of my arrival, the lethargy, thirst and frequent trips to the bathroom (which I had attributed to too many late nights) were diagnosed as symptoms of uncontrolled diabetes.

Learning to live with a chronic illness like Juvenile diabetes (so-called since it usually occurs in people under 40) has made me realize that adjusting to the practical lifestyle changes in only the first hurdle. Since being diagnosed, I have come to appreciate the difficulty which students with similar illnesses face when trying to balance the physical demands of their condition with their own emotional needs.

Unfortunately, since the psychological implications of living with a chronic condition are not usually the focus of awareness campaigns, this very important aspect is often overlooked by the general public. Perhaps if I had known more about diabetes, my diagnosis would not have come as such a shock.

When I learned that I had insulin-dependent diabetes, not only did I know nothing about the condition, but I vaguely associated it with the haemophiliac children I had seen on bus shelter posters — their gray faces and sunken eyes were a vivid depiction of their disease.

It would be no exaggeration to say that my ignorance was complete. Since none of my friends or family had Type 1 diabetes (while it is believed to be an inheritable disease, not all those at risk actually develop it), I had never been exposed to it before. The first thing my practical English doctor did was check my feet and then inform me that diabetes is the leading cause of amputation in Britain. I'm still not sure of the intended effect, but that marked the beginning of my diabetes education.

Diabetes mellitus (Latin for "honey-sweet") is an autoimmune disorder which destroys the insulin-producing cells in the body. Without the hormone insulin, the pancreas cannot properly store or break down the glucose in food which your body needs for energy. The unused glucose remains in your blood or is passed in your urine, effectively starving your cells of fuel.

In Type 1 diabetes, the body produces little or no insulin, making daily insulin injections essential for survival (since insulin is a protein, it would be digested by the stomach if it were taken as a pill). It is a lifelong disorder, and despite significant advances in research, a cure is still not on the foreseeable horizon.

At this point in my crash-course in diabetes, a nurse whipped out a syringe and said, "It's time you learned how to do this." Seeing no other option, I dutifully complied.

It's difficult to express my feelings after learning I would be dependent on insulin injections for the rest of my life. It seemed utterly ridiculous that in essence I would have to think like my pancreas, an organ with which I had just become familiar, and balance my exercise and diet with the appropriate dose of insulin. I was upset, scared, and most of all angry. Why did I have to worry about going too high (hyperglycemic) or too low (hypoglycemic), on top of all the regular concerns of student?

Worse, when my doctor told me that Type 1 diabetes could lead to long-term complications like kidney disease, nerve damage and blindness, I was overwhelmed. Why hadn't I heard about this disease before? Although I realized that other people must have it, I felt completely alone. That night I was convinced my life was over. At 21, I was mortal after all.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY STUDENTS AT U OF T SUFFER FROM CHRONIC ILLNESSES LIKE LUPUS, CROHN'S DISEASE, EPILEPSY, ARTHRITIS, DIABETES, ASTHMA, OR CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME. BECAUSE THEY ARE HIDDEN CONDITIONS, UNLESS YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THEM POP A PILL, USE AN INHALER OR INJECT THEMSELVES, IT'S NOT EASY TO IDENTIFY THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM THEM. EVEN IF PEOPLE NOTICE A MEDIC-ALERT BRACELET, MOST ASSUME THE WEARER IS ALLERGIC TO PENICILLIN.

A few days later, as I was sipping my Diet Coke, I watched in amazement as my first real-life diabetic friend downed three pints. Callum, a 20-year-old Scottish student who has had diabetes most of his life, laughed when I explained the "one or two drinks no more than once or twice a week" guideline which my doctor had given me for drinking alcohol. By taking the proper precautions which someone with diabetes must in order to avoid a hypoglycemic attack, Callum still occasionally enjoys his pints of Guinness.

Although drinking involves the hassle of doing extra blood-tests and eating extra carbohydrate, Callum was living proof that I could control my diabetes rather than me being controlled by it. Drinking just happens to be the example.

That isn't to say I'm as carefree now as I was before being diagnosed, but the lifestyle changes are not as drastic as I first thought they'd be. The new technology makes it possible to keep blood sugars in control and still lead an active life.

Keeping a sense of perspective, however, is not so simple. Living with a chronic illness like diabetes can sometimes wreak havoc on your emotions. As my friend Laura, a second-year student who became epileptic two years ago says, feeling guilty that you're doing something wrong is as much a part of the condition as is the medication. It's not that before I was diabetic I didn't regret eating a fudge brownie, but the consequences now are much worse. Some aspects of university life, like irregular hours and meals, junk food and the stress of holding down a part-time job, which can be taken for granted by students, become more serious for someone who has to live with a health condition. Listening to how she deals with her condition and the rigours of university life is enlightening.

"Pulling all-nighters, the alcohol, the stress: all three things are the worst thing for epilepsy and that's university summed up. So I have to be careful and know my limitations. When I go out late partying and drinking, I have to wake up at 2pm the next day because if I wake up any earlier I'm fucked — it increases my chances of having a seizure. But you have to play both roles. You have to be the person with epilepsy, and you have to be the student. So far it's working."

While common sense dictates that everyone should strive for a good, healthy lifestyle, sometimes it's easier said than done.

"Living with a chronic illness, you have to listen to your body more," my friend with asthma says. When she's stressed or depressed, for example, her asthma attacks become more frequent. In order to control them, she must first take control of her emotions which can be frustrating. Bruce, a second year Medical student, says diabetes has also made him place a higher priority on his health. Instead of staying up all night to get a higher grade, he'll now avoid the physical challenge and forget the extra ten per cent.

Undoubtedly, the number of students afflicted is much higher than would be assumed from the number that go to the special services clinic. But either they don't need help, or they are very discreet about their condition. Whatever the reason, everybody copes differently, and one way may not necessarily be better than another.



injecting insulin

What is sad to see, however, are those who deny the existence of their condition because somehow they feel that it's socially unacceptable. The stigma attached to epilepsy, for example, is appalling. It seems that some people are very uncomfortable when others, through no fault of their own, lose control.

Laura, for example, lives in fear of a Grand Mal seizure because she says not only is it "a very, very scary thing to go through, but socially it's very unacceptable because it's animalistic". Unfortunately, it took me becoming an insulin-dependent diabetic to realize what it's like, at times, to be at the mercy of your own health. Perhaps if the general public were better educated about these hidden conditions, and the side-effects of their treatment, such ignorance could be avoided.

Exactly one year after diagnosis, I still have moments when I think about the long term complications and get depressed. I have a pretty positive attitude towards diabetes, but sometimes it's discouraging to think that despite a (mostly) healthy lifestyle, I am still twice as likely to have a heart attack or stroke as my friends who eat french fries and smoke like chimneys. But then my sense of perspective returns, and I think that yes, things could be worse.

by Lisa Hepner

U of T Varsity (CUP)

classified ads

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students (with valid ID): \$3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) \$4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$3.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day, or \$4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person or call 398-6790 - **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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Côte des Neiges. To share. Apt. 4 1/2, very bright and clean with male/female (I prefer male). Immediately. Tel.: 731-1355. Non-smoker.

Roommate wanted to share large 4 1/2 on Mountain (5 min. from McGill) furnished. VCR, microwave. Heating, parking, electricity, buzzer, intercom. \$425 (immediate occupancy.) Call Françoise 499-1610.

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8 - To Give Away



Can we talk? 398-6246.

12 - Personal

Anne, Sue, Tham... We're so glad you're soon going to be one of us! We hope you're as excited as we are! See you tomorrow. Alpha love, your AOP sisters.

All I want for my birthday is a Ben & Jerry's ice cream cake. Hint, hint, hint. For info call 286-6073. 1316 de Maisonneuve W.

13 - Lessons/Courses

"Law School Bound?" For information about a complete manual designed to guide you through every step of the law admissions process. Call 1-800-661-SAT (5728).

14 - Notices

AIDS presentation Mon. Nov. 30, 1992. McGill School of Social Work, 3506 University Street, Wendy Patrick

Room. Speaker: Mr. Chen Cho. Time: 12:30-2:00. Refreshments served.

Denver, Colorado? World Youth Day 1993! See Pope John Paul II. See the Rockies! For information, leave your name and number with McGill Chaplaincy 398-4106.

McGill Chaplaincy - The Exam Drop-In is open! Redpath Library, Monday-Friday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., November 23 to December 11. In the reading room to the right of the main entrance (Room 07). Tips and handouts on coping with stress, writing exams & surviving the exam period! Informal, no appointments, no files. Info: 398-4104.

Amateur Radio Club of McGill University (ARCMU) is back! Meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 25, 7PM, McConnell Engineering Room 437. Info: Andrew (VE2HHS) 481-1582, Silver@EE470.EE.McGill.CA All are welcome!

Retreat for Catholic Students. Jan. 15-17, sponsored by Newman Centre. Theme: "Praying Scripture in My Daily Life." Deadline: Jan. 8, Cost: \$50. For info and registration: 398-4106.

Want to Talk? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) sponsors two discussion groups at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aymer, above Milton, on Fridays. A coming out support group meets at 5:30, and a discussion group meets at 7:30. A great way to find out about yourself and others.

Confused or Curious? LBGM (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Gays of McGill) is restarting peer counselling. Anyone interested in finding out about LBGM or has questions about their sexuality is welcome to drop by room 417, Shalner or call 398-6822. Hours are during lunch and 7 to 10, Monday through Saturday.

16 - Musicians

Drummer looking for rock band. Call Ziad 769-8743.

17 - Parking

No more 'circling the block' or ticket blues. Nearby parking seconds from McGill for compact or sub-compact car. Snow cleared. Hurry 481-5911.

Help Me! I've fallen and I can't get up...

Final issue of The McGill Daily for 1992: Thursday, December 3. Deadline for advertising is 3 p.m., Friday, November 27.
Edition finale du McGill Daily pour 1992: Jeudi le 3 décembre. Les annonces seront acceptées jusqu'à 15h00, vendredi le 27 novembre.



McGill Volunteer Bureau presents

The 5th Annual Food Drive

- Please bring canned foods and put them in boxes located in all major buildings on campus

NOV. 16th TO DEC. 7th

Donations will be used to make food baskets for the needy. This holiday season, think of helping those less fortunate than ourselves.



ATTENTION: ARTS & SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

WINTER DROP/ADD PERIOD VIA MARS DECEMBER 1, 1992 TO JANUARY 17, 1993

Need to make changes to your winter term courses? MARS worksheets & instructions will be available in the lobby of Dawson Hall as of December 1st.

You are strongly recommended to call MARS **early**; do not wait 'til the last minute.

REMEMBER THESE DEADLINES:

JANUARY 15/93 - TO OBTAIN ADVISER'S APPROVAL

JANUARY 17/93 - "B" COURSE DROP/ADD

"D" COURSE WITHDRAWAL WITH REFUND FOR THE WINTER TERM ONLY

JANUARY 24/93 - "B" COURSE WITHDRAWAL WITH REFUND

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